P.63562

History of Southern Pine Beetle Epidemics in Texas

The Bureau of Entomology, USDA, published in 1921 the bulletin entitled the Southern Pine Beetle written by A. D. Hopkins, Forest Entomologist in charge of forest insect investigations. In the preface to the bulletin there is the following statement:

> "The Southern Pine Beetle is the most destructive enemy of the pines of all species in the Southern states from Pennsylvania to Texas. It has killed more merchantable sized timber during the last 30 years than have died from all other causes combined. Between 1890 and 1893 it killed a very large percentage of the yellow, pitch, and white pines of West Virginia and Virginia, and, since the earliest records in 1842, has killed a vast amount of timber in the Atlantic and Gulf states, much of which has been a total loss."

On page 8 of the same Farmer's Bulletin 1188 by Hopkins, there appears the following:

> "Extended investigations of the problem were begun by the entomologists of the West Virginia Experiment Station in 1891, and continued at intervals in West Virginia until 1901, and by the experts on forest insects in the Bureau of Entomology at different times and in all of the Southern states from July 1, 1902 until 1911.
>
> "It has also been shown that this beetle has existed in the Southern states for at least 78 years -- but it is only at comparatively long intervals that it increases to such numbers as to cause widespread depredations.
>
> "During the summer and fall of 1910 and the winter and spring of 1911, correspondence of the Bureau of Entomology in different sections of the South, and especially in the Atlantic and Gulf states, reported that the pine was dying in patches and that in some places the trouble was alarming. Therefore it was made the subject of special investigation in May, June and July, 1911, which resulted in the location of a forest insect field station at Spartanburg, South Carolina, -- .
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> "The study in 1911 of the character and extent of the depredations by the Southern Pine Beetle in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Virginia, Louisiana, Maryland, Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee, and information conveyed by correspondence from all sections of the South, showed that in the advocate a vast amount of timber had been killed by the Southern Pine Beetle during 1910 and 1911."

Machine copy
Rent Dr. Crozier
10-24-66

In recent conversation with Kirby Herndon of the Kirby Lumber Corporation, he stated that there was an epidemic in northern Orange and southern Jasper and Newton counties that reached a climax in August, 1939. He did not recall the extent of the period in which the beetle was active, but he had records in his office showing that the Kirby Lumber Corporation could not keep up with all the timber that was being killed by the beetle, so engaged the Peavey-More Lumber Company to cut some of their stumpage for them. During the summer of 1939, as much as 300,000 feet of lumber per day was produced from beetle-killed timber.

Herndon also recalls that there was an epidemic in the vicinity of Blox, northwest of Jasper, that occurred in either the late teens or early '20's.

This is definite evidence that epidemics in Southeast Texas have not been confined to Hardin and adjoining counties.

ADF/kg
7/9/62

The control procedure in the 1939 infestation consisted of cutting a swath around each infested spot. In August 1939 a "front" was clearcut for a half mile north of the known infested spots. This partly accounts for the large volume of timber cut. Another contributing factor was the volume per acre. I recall counting 80 26" & log trees per acre on some spots of infestation.

DY
7-16-62

To ADF **TEXAS FOREST SERVICE** Date 9-10

attached is history you requested

In the 50-51 epidemic 43,520 M bf and 24,000 cords valued at $1,350,000 were killed — 25 million board feet and 23,000 cords were estimated as salvaged

In the present epidemic it is estimated 130 million bf and 250 ~~50~~,000 cords have been killed of which 40 million board feet and 50,000 cords were salvaged, Value of stumpage killed $5,000,000.

DY